

REMARKS

The Office Action of 12/04/2006 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the claims have been amended as set forth above. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 were rejected as being anticipated by Overtoom. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish over the cited reference. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the bus station, in the second mode, communicates with a further device station coupled to said second port on behalf of the first device station, whereby the first device station appears as a host station to the further device station. No such feature is believed to be taught or suggested by Overtoom.

Although the gateway of Overtoom operates in a default host mode for purposes of mediating a Host Negotiation Protocol, the gateway itself does not participate in communications as either a device or a host. Note in particular the sentence bridging columns 3 and 4 ("It is noted that the hub 102 is not required to configure the devices, since the hub 102 *will not actually use* the resources of those devices.").

Claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 6, which has been canceled. In relation to claims 4 and 5, the cited reference fails to teach or suggest the features of these claims in which a bus station is arranged to operate under the control of system software, including host emulating software being arranged to emulate the presence of a host controller.

Allowance of claims 1-5, 7 and 8 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M Ure", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Ure, Reg. 33,089

Dated: 05/09/2007